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1. **The Injured Head.** What do its symptoms indicate after the first month?

Headache, vertigo, insomnia, irritability, memory defects, asthenia and other symptoms may characterize the case of head injury after the immediate symptoms have cleared away. The same symptoms may be present with definite brain lesions which are demonstrable by present clinical methods; with non-demonstrable organic lesions; or with functional brain derangement variously called traumatic, post-traumatic, or traumatized neroses. Discussion of methods of attack in determining the basis of the symptoms in a given case; present diagnostic limitations; treatment.

2. **Disease and Disability.** Their dissection into the facts, the functional and the feigned.

Dealing with the methods of differentiation of organic, functional and malingered conditions. The importance of such differentiation for proper treatment for patient; for equitable decision as regards liability by courts and commissions; to prevent the doctor being a party to fraudulent claims.

3. **The Doctor Before the Bench.** Considering the conduct of a doctor both before courts and commissions, and in making examinations and reports which find their way to judicial tribunals.

Consideration of the attitude towards patients and their representatives in cases with liability features; the attitude towards representatives of the other side of the case; the attitude towards other doctors who have examined the case. The differences between everyday reports and those in liability cases. The attitude as a witness, including examinations, reports and testimony in industrial accident cases.

4. **Psychoanalysis.** Considered as a "Fringe of Medicine."

Brief story of its development and history. Description of the psychoanalytic method. Its uses. Its abuses. Consideration of its exploitation by laymen, and the resultant danger to public morals, public health and public safety. Its place in medicine in the hands of the neuro-psychiatrist; in the hands of the general practitioner. Its place outside medicine as a sister-cult with Eddyism, adjustmentism, pressureism and the rest. Consideration of the attitude of neglect of use of well-founded scientific mental therapeutic methods, by the medical profession. How the latter leads to the development by and for the members of what Munsterberg has aptly termed "The Intellectual Underworld"—of unscientific practices aimed at the cure of disease, and in many instances more particularly at the accumulation of finance.

Book Reviews

"Modern Italian Surgery and Old Universities of Italy," by Dr. Paolo De Vecchi, 43 Fifth avenue, New York City, N. Y. Published by Paul B. Hoeber, New York.

The many friends of Dr. De Vecchi, formerly a prominent and much beloved physician of San Francisco, will read with pleasure the volume which he has recently published.

At the close of the war, Dr. De Vecchi spent more than a year in Italy for the purpose of collating the medical history of the Italian campaigns. The results of his inquiry he has recorded in the first hundred pages of this volume, thereby making a notable contribution to the literature of war surgery and sanitation. The last half of the work is devoted to a brief account of the educational institutions of Italy.

Dr. De Vecchi's long residence in Italy, his native country, and his deep interest in all that

pertains to the Italians, has given him peculiar facility for this undertaking. T. W. H.

General Pathology. By Horst Oertel. An Introduction to the Study of Medicine. New York: Paul B. Hoeber. 1921.

This treatise on General Pathology by the Strathcona Professor of Pathology of McGill University is interesting in many respects. The absence of all illustrations in a text on pathology is one striking feature. In this connection, Professor Oertel states that "the emphasis has been put on discussion of the nature and development of pathological processes, and it is assumed that laboratory experience will supplement the use of the book."

To the writer of this review it has always been questionable whether in a general pathology the profuse illustrations now so commonly introduced are really necessary or even desirable, because they distract the student's attention from the text and sometimes give rise to erroneous impressions. They certainly can replace in no way the actual handling of the material in the laboratory.

Book one on etiology consists very largely of a brief description of various pathogenic bacteria. This to my mind is the least satisfactory part of the book, because it contains too much bacteriological detail and too little that is of interest of the point of view of general pathology. The emphasis placed on matters historical is commendable and the parts dealing with this side of the subject might be amplified. If the portion dealing with bacteriology were reduced to proper proportions, space would be gained for a fuller presentation of the subjects dealt with in book two—on pathological anatomy, histology and pathogenesis—which in places is so brief as to be confusing, especially to beginners.

On the whole, the book is an interesting attempt to present an old subject in a new way. W. O.

Edgar A. Poe—A Study. By John W. Robertson, M. D. Printed in San Francisco, Cal., by Bruce Brough, 1921.

Of all the studies of the life of Edgar A. Poe, this which was undertaken by Dr. John W. Robertson is the most unique, because it is an analysis of the underlying psychopathic basis of Poe's dramatic life. Other men have compiled his writings and elaborated biographies. However, they are most unfortunately based upon a premise of error. In nearly every instance they take their fundamental misinformation from a biography by Griswold.

This man, immediately upon the death of Poe, through underhanded methods gained possession of all his writings and compiled a most scurrilous biography defaming the name of one of the greatest literary men of the age. Griswold had a deep-seated jealousy of Edgar A. Poe, and after the death of the poet he spent his venom upon the name. It is largely owing to the writings of this detractor that we consider Poe a drunkard and a degenerate. He was belied.

Poe was essentially a psycho-neurotic, a morbid genius, a hypersensitive soul, a man of fine dreams and most tender sentiments. He was loyal and loving to his wife and mother-in-law and to those who were fortunate enough to be his intimate friends. He was, however, cursed with periodic alcoholism. This study made by Dr. Robertson shows very clearly that the man was abnormally sensitive to alcohol and that a small amount brought on a pathological state which was often taken for gross intoxication.

It is clearly shown also that drugs in no way entered into the life of this great poet. He was not, as has been claimed, ever under the influence of opium and other hypnotics. His death, undoubtedly influenced to some extent by alcoholism, was clearly one resulting from pneumonia and terminal meningitis, and not the base, inglorious exit de-

scribed by his malignant biographer Griswold. Unfortunately, it was on this biography that Lauvrière based his psychopathic study of Poe, and his statement as to the effect of alcohol and opium in the genesis of much that Poe wrote has proved more injurious to his memory even than Griswold's prejudiced memoirs. Probably the greatest service Dr. Robertson has rendered is in the complete annihilation of Lauvrière psychopathic deductions.

Dr. Robertson has collected and has in his possession practically the entire writings of Edgar A. Poe. For more than thirty years he has made a study of his life and literature. That portion of his book which deals with the bibliography is most fascinating. The physician alone is capable of understanding and interpreting the basic emotions which governed the career of this unfortunate poet. This book will become a standard by which a true estimate of Poe can be obtained.

Saxton Pope.

County Societies

Alameda County Medical Association (reported by Dr. Pauline S. Nusbaumer, secretary)—The September meeting of the association was held at Oakland Health Center, September 19, with about 100 members present.

Dr. M. L. Emerson's subject was "Falciform Ligament Tug, Causing Intra-abdominal Distress." He reported seven patients in which operation showed bands of organized areola tissue originating in the fold of the falciform ligament of the liver, perforating the transversalis fascia and linea alba, causing a resistant tug on the falciform ligament and symptoms of abdominal distress. In accordance with Moskovitz's studies these would all have been classed as epigastric hernia. Emerson considers the operative technique a minor procedure which should be performed through a small incision, if possible, in order not to make it appear that the patient has had an extensive abdominal operation. He believes the term "epigastric hernia" to be a misnomer.

Dr. C. A. Dukes's subject was "Cysts of the Long Bones, with Report of Two Cases." The first patient, a boy of eleven years, was operated by Dr. Dukes in 1908. The diagnosis was spontaneous fracture of the neck of the right femur, due to a large bone cyst. An incision was made over the swollen area and the cyst curetted. A Lane plate was placed for the purpose of maintaining position. Uneventful recovery followed and X-rays taken recently show the plate in perfect position, and there was normal functioning of the leg without shortening. Dukes's second patient, seen in 1918, was a boy seven years of age, with a fracture of the right humerus at the neck. X-ray showed a large bone cyst with swelling of the shoulder. Incision was made and the cyst curetted. The arm was maintained in position by a splint. The patient made a satisfactory recovery with no deformity or loss of function. Dukes calls attention to the rarity of true bone cysts, and also to the fact that a metal plate may be retained in position indefinitely.

Dr. S. H. Buteau's subject was "A Plea for More Frequent Consultations and for the Practice of Group Medicine." Buteau considers that the science and art of medicine have grown beyond a masterly comprehension by any one individual. The surgeon and the internist who have reached more than mediocre success are representative of two distinctly opposite types of mind—the surgeon, the objective type; the internist, the subjective type. These two types are rarely blended in one, hence specialism is more than selective, it is largely physiological. If we accept the above statements, more frequent consultations, or, better still, the practice

of group medicine, becomes imperative for the best interests of the sick.

A number of case histories were presented to the meeting and a number of members took part in the discussion on the subjects comprising the program.

Dr. Belle Ellingsen Merrill, Dr. Clyde T. Wetmore, Dr. Waldron A. Gregory and Dr. Isabelle Armstrong were elected members of the association.

At the October meeting of the staff of the Merritt Hospital, Dr. W. A. Clark was elected chief of the gynecological staff. The program was as follows: The Preparation of the Surgical Patient, by Dr. W. E. Mitchell; Heart Block, by Dr. A. A. Alexander; Councilman's Infection, by Prof. C. A. Kofoid.

Imperial County (reported by Dr. H. W. Owen, secretary)—The first meeting of the county society following the hot season will be held on the second Thursday in November.

Dr. Owen has submitted some advertising matter from a chiropractor who makes unusual claims even for that particular cult. This fellow claims that tonsillitis is caused by subluxation of the lower cervical vertebrae, and he apparently does not appreciate the fact that the nerves that supply the tonsils are cranial nerves and not spinal nerves at all.

Merced County (reported by Dr. Brett Davis, secretary)—The October meeting was held in the office of the secretary with eight members present and twelve absent. Dr. A. R. Kilgore of San Francisco was present and discussed the subject of "Bone Tumors." His lecture was illustrated by lantern slides. Doctors Fountain, Davis, Zirker, Lilley, Parker, Mudd, Cotton and Williams took part in the discussion.

Placer County (reported by Dr. Robert A. Peers, secretary)—The Placer County Medical Society held its regular meeting in the Masonic Temple, in Auburn, Saturday evening, October 8, 1921. In the absence of the president, Dr. Charles J. Durand, the vice-president presided. Dr. John A. Russell, of Auburn, was elected a member of the Society. The secretary presented to the members of the Society a resumé of the work which has been done by the League for the Conservation of Public Health and set forth, in addition, some of the problems with which the League would be confronted in the future. He made an appeal for the support of each individual member of the Society to the end that the work which the League is carrying out should be as uniformly successful in the future as in the past. Doctors E. H. Falconer and J. H. Woolsey, of San Francisco, also spoke briefly on the same subject.

The literary program consisted of two very excellent addresses, one by Dr. J. H. Woolsey, Instructor in Surgery, of the University of California, on Tumors of the Thyroid with Especial Reference to Adenoma, and the other by Dr. E. H. Falconer, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, of the University of California, on Practical Application and Uses of Blood Transfusion.

The next meeting of the Society will be held in Auburn, early in December.

San Bernardino County (reported by Dr. Eytinge, secretary)—The October meeting was held at the San Bernardino County Hospital with forty-five members and fifteen guests present and fifteen members absent. Dr. C. F. Whitmer reported on the semi-annual meeting of the State and constituent society officers recently held in San Francisco. Mr. Celestine J. Sullivan, executive secretary of the League for the Conservation of Public Health, and Dr. W. T. McArthur of Los Angeles, made an appeal for support of the League and its work by